

BLACK BILLY SUNDAY THRILLS HIS CONVERTS TO 'STRIKE THE PIKE'

Negro Evangelist Has His Own Phrase for "Trail-Hitting" and Shows Ability to Exhort Without Acrobatics.

Willbanks Shows His Power as an Inimitable Storyteller and Softens His Hearers in Varick Temple to Tears of Penitence.

"BLACK BILLYISM." "Open the front door of your heart and let God in; kick the devil out the back door and throw him over the fence."

A remarkable demonstration of his ability to grip the attention of his hearers and make them "strike the pike" without acrobatics was given before 1500 persons last night at the Varick African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, 19th and Catharine streets, by the Rev. Alexander Willbanks, the "Black Billy Sunday."

Shorn of the action that characterizes most of his sermons, his talk last night made 25 men and women "pike strikers." They started to line up outside the church at 6 o'clock, and it was more than two hours and a half before Willbanks stepped out on the platform and started the long prayer with which he precedes all his sermons.

Comparison of the big Negro's methods with those of "Billy" Sunday so far as his actions on the platform are concerned caused him to make up his mind to deliver one sermon without any acrobatic gymnastics. He did not climb upon the organ last night; he did not charge down the aisles nor stand on the benches.

TELLS STORY INIMITABLY. At least one of the secrets of his power to sway his people came to light in this unusual sermon. It is that he has developed to the "nth" power the natural gift of his race as a story-teller.

TEARS TEST OF CONVERSION. The most striking feature of the meeting last night, however, was staged after Willbanks finished his sermon, after "pike strikers" had shaken hands with him and taken their places in "glory row."

THE THOUSAND-ODD MEN AND WOMEN in the church creased forward around the pulpit, jammed the aisles until they became impassable and started singing. The penitents draped their knees and buried their heads in their arms.

CALLS FOR "SOLDIERS." When the chuckling and laughter died down, Willbanks continued: "There's so much pride and selfishness in that church I simply can't get in, and I've tried hard, but they got me locked out," said the Lord. "And, sonny, you needn't worry if you don't get in where I can't get in. You're all right. Never mind 'bout gettin' into that church. I can't do it myself."

When he called for converts, Willbanks told his people that Germany and France and England and Russia want all their soldiers, "and so does God," he teased. He scored what he called the "sneaky-goody class" of people who think they're better than others.

Willbanks punctuated his sermons with wags of his fingers that ring out like revolver shots. When his people got to making so much noise that this is no longer effective, he clapped his hands. From years of practice, he is able to make his voice heard in the most deafening way that is almost deafening.

'HOME, FEELING FINE,' SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

Evangelist Cordially Greeted by His Neighbors at Winona Lake.

Word has been received here that "Billy" and "Ma" Sunday arrived home at Winona Lake, Ind., safely last night, and that both are feeling fine. Their message to this city was:

We reached home safe, on time to the minute. It was a procession of compliments at every station where we stopped. Hundreds of our neighbors and friends were at the station to welcome us home. Mother was smiling and happy to see us, and insisted on sitting up at the table and eating supper with us. Will and Paul are well.

There were many anxious to shake the hand of the evangelist, and while he was tired, he was exceedingly happy and welcomed all his friends with open arms. The news that his mother is able to get up to sit at the supper table with "Billy" and "Ma" brings much happiness to the relatives and members of the Sunday party who remained in this city, as the aged Mrs. Sunday had been confined to her bed for a long time.

Sunday said last night that he was worn out by the strenuous campaign here as he had expected to be. Although somewhat tired in body and although his voice was somewhat strained, he said that he felt in excellent physical condition.

He announced definitely that he would start his campaign in Paterson, N. J., on April 4, and that after it was finished he and "Ma" hoped to take a sailing vessel for San Francisco through the Panama Canal. Upon their arrival there they expect to spend some time at the exposition, after which they will go to their ranch in Oregon for a rest.

At the conclusion of their stay in the country he plans to conduct campaigns next winter in the following order: Omaha, Neb.; Trenton, N. J.; Baltimore and Louisville. In the autumn of 1916 he plans to open a revival campaign in Boston.

"Billy's" grandson, who became ill yesterday just as his father, George M. Sunday, and mother were about to go to Atlantic City, was about the same this morning, but is not thought to be in a serious condition. As soon as the baby is well enough Mr. Sunday will go to Atlantic City, where he and his family will remain at John Wanamaker's cottage until the Paterson campaign opens.

Bentley D. Ackley, "Billy" Sunday's private secretary and pianist, is finishing his work today at the Spring Garden street headquarters, and plans to leave with Mrs. Ackley and his little daughter for Atlantic City tonight or tomorrow morning. Ben T. Welch and Mrs. Welch will probably accompany Mr. and Mrs. Ackley. After two or three days' rest at the shore, Mr. Ackley plans to go to Moscow, Pa., near Scranton, where he will remain until the Paterson campaign opens. Letters intended for "Billy" Sunday should be sent to Mr. Ackley at Moscow.

CALLS NEWS DISPATCHES received by the American press today from London announce that Henry Randall is anxious to have "Billy" Sunday conduct campaigns in England to help in the efforts to obtain laws to prevent the sale of intoxicants until the war is ended.

PASTOR URGES CO-OPERATION

Thinks Individual Should Keep in Closer Touch With Church.

Closer touch with the churches on the part of the individual and more active co-operation were urged by the Rev. John W. Walker, who was the principal speaker today at the noonday service in St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church, 3d and Pine streets. The speaker took for his topic "Our Opposition to Learn the Lesson of Love."

"We are in Christian life," he said, "when we suppose that Heaven is a position rather than a condition. But men object to Christian teaching because there is nothing personal in it and because they say 'God has favorites.' Our Lord shows the very opposite, seeking out the harlot, the publican and the sinner. There seems to be a danger of the church losing individual touch, but Baptism and Confirmation emphasize this. To believe that 'God loves me' is an incentive for an active life."

Glenside Firemen Elect

The Glenside Fire Company has elected the following officers for the ensuing year: P. A. Allen, president; J. Doner, treasurer; Sylvester Stout, chief; Howard Foster. The yearly report shows the company to be in a prosperous condition.

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HOUSEWIVES OF M'NABB TOWN RALLY TO DEFEND TOWN PUMP



Housewives of McNabtown, an ancient community near Walnut Lane and Chew street, Germantown, prepared today to defend the community pump against agents of the Water Bureau, who have condemned it and threaten to take it away. For 50 years the old well and its

NEUTRALITY A SHAM IN FIGHT WITH EVIL

Preacher Uses War in Europe as Example of Struggle Between Antagonistic Forces.

Neutrality in Europe was declared to be absolutely impossible except as an abstract theory by the Rev. Charles J. Smith, of Trinity Lutheran Church, New York, at the noonday Lenten services at St. John's Lutheran Church, Race below 6th street, today.

More than 150 children less than eight years old live in the four blocks surrounding the unhealthy dumping ground in the Christian Street Cemetery, according to a census taken by the South Philadelphia Branch of the Child Federation.

The insanitary condition of the cemetery, which has served as a receptacle for trash and refuse for years, has caused the Bureau of Health to co-operate with the Child Federation in the plan to clean it up and convert it into a playground.

Through the co-operation of Edward H. Bonaal, chairman of the board of trustees of the cemetery, work will commence within the next few days. William Stecher, director of physical education in schools; W. D. Champlin, secretary of the Board of Recreation, and Albert Cross, of the Child Federation, will meet tomorrow morning to formulate plans for converting the cemetery into a playground.

The conversion of the Christian Street Cemetery is said to start a general plan whereby the city will take over all the deserted cemeteries, clean them up and put them to some use. These cemeteries are used as dumping grounds, and as such are considered by the Bureau of Health to be a menace to health.

THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

The Rev. A. R. Berkley Preaches Lenten Sermon.

"The Fruits of the Spirit" was the topic of a sermon delivered today by the Rev. Alfred R. Berkley at a noonday Lenten service at Old St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3d street below Walnut street.

Two points which the speaker emphasized were that fruit-bearing, in religious as well as in the material life, is a gradual process, and that it is contingent on the maintenance of our relation with God.

"Our relation to our fellow men," he said, "should be similar to that of our Lord in the matter of long suffering, patience, kindness and sympathy. No better example could have been given us than Christ, whose life may be summed up in the words, 'He went about doing good.'"

Open House at Manufacturers' Club

This is open house day at the Manufacturers' Club, where many of the city's most prominent business men are celebrating the first anniversary of the occupancy of the new headquarters at Broad and Walnut streets. This afternoon there will be a billiard match and several interesting musical programs.

SUNDAY BAFFLED BY SCRIBES' OBSTINACY

Evangelist Could Not Understand Why Reporters Refused to "Hit the Trail."

"Billy" Sunday's "goal" is not an easy one to get, as any one who knows the evangelist will readily admit. He hates noise and coughing while preaching. He is a bundle of nerves, but it takes something unusual to phase or disappoint him.

For some reason unknown to members of the Sunday party, the 30-odd reporters "covering" the revival, with one exception, could not be induced to "hit the far-famed 'sawdust trail,' although inducements in the form of coaxing and gentle words were certainly not lacking.

Another little misunderstanding on "Ma's" part was evinced when she wished to give the reporters a little parting token of remembrance in the form of money. She explained that in other cities "Billy" had always given the reporters some little gift to show his appreciation of their work and support.

The Sunday household, while at meals, would often wonder why or how the reporters could resist "Billy's" pleading sermons. Some one suggested that many reporters covering the revival were professed Christians and churchgoers.

Students as Fire Fighters. Several hundred students of the University of Pennsylvania, many of them scantily clothed, assembled at 24th and Walnut streets at an early hour this morning to watch firemen extinguish a blaze in a garage at 28th Walnut street.

Protest Against Dismissal. A petition signed by more than 100 members of the West Branch, Y. M. C. A., has been sent to the board of management protesting against the dismissal of three of the directing staff and urging that they be reinstated.

BOOZ BOTTLES BOUGHT

Fancy Prices Paid for Glass Recaptacles With a History.

Tradition has passed a shaking hand across her wrinkled brow again and recalled one of her most interesting stories for the benefit of the present generation. It is the yarn of E. C. Booz, a Philadelphia distiller of the vintage of 1880, who blew his name in his whiskey bottles and so gave birth to a slang term for his product that goes marching on long after his body has ceased to be.

Booz made his whiskey so good that many Philadelphians of the time would recognize no other. To the bartender's classic "Whattyaave?" they simply replied "Booz," and let it go at that.

BATTLE WITH THIEVES WAKES UP MOVIE MEN

Trio of Robbers in Street Duel With Two Watchmen on Lehigh Ave.

A trio of housebreakers emptied two revolvers at Joseph Mohr, a watchman who caught two of the intruders in the home of William Brendley, at 2088 Stella street, early today, and after engaging in a running exchange of shots when reinforcements arrived two of the desperadoes escaped.

BROTHER ARRESTS BROTHER

Young Man Disappeared With Money and Jewelry.

Daniel McGuckin, an 18-year-old youth from Baltimore, visited his brother-in-law, Joseph Mayer, of 256 Corlies street, last month. When he had gone Mayer discovered that \$37 in money and \$60 in jewelry had also disappeared.

Going to the Expositions? Don't Miss Colorado Scenery

No one can be indifferent to the beauty and grandeur of the Colorado Rocky Mountain scenery, and visitors to the California expositions should make a point of seeing it. Also Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, the Royal Gorge, and Salt Lake City.

POLICE SURPRISE YEGGS; CAPTURE AFTER CHASE

Men Drop Diamonds and Jewelry in Street as Bluecoats Pursue Them.

A thick steel door, erected a year ago, after a robbery, failed to hamper two alleged yeggs, who sawed their way into the jewelry store of Leon Goldstein, at 708 Girard avenue, early today and left a trail of gems in their wake when Policemen Schmidt and Franz surprised them and captured the pair, after firing several shots.

GORDON'S LOVE GROWS COLD; JILTED WIDOW ASKS \$5000

Comely Fiancee Enters Suit for Heart Balm.

Yetta Rosenblatt, a young widow, has entered suit against Isadore Gordon, of 1718 South 8th street, to recover \$5000 damages for breach of promise of marriage.

Gordon was a close friend of the plaintiff's husband, who died four years ago. The defendant is engaged in the business of collecting and selling antiques and old furniture. He is alleged to have started paying marked attention to Mrs. Rosenblatt in the early part of 1914.

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To Mark Bridge Opening With Feast

The opening of Passyunk bridge, April 17, will be celebrated by a joint banquet of the Woodland Avenue Business Men's Association and the Elmwood Avenue Business Men's Association. Three representatives from each organization are now making plans for the dinner.

Advertisement for 'My Husband Was Making \$1200 a Year: Now \$5000 a Year.' Includes text: 'I got an idea: made a suggestion, carried it out, and now our income is \$5000 a year and steadily increasing. Our name is beginning to stand for something.' 'The wife herself tells the idea (that other wives can copy) in the great series, "How I Helped My Husband to Make More Money," in the April LADIES' HOME JOURNAL. Fifteen Cents a Copy, of All News Agents. Or, \$1.50 a Year (12 Issues) by Mail, Ordered Through Our Subscription Agents or Direct. THE CURTIS PUBLISHING COMPANY Independence Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania'